

BARBARA A. MIKULSKI
MARYLAND

SUITE 503
HART SENATE OFFICE BUILDING
WASHINGTON, DC 20510-2003

(202) 224-4654
TDD: (202) 224-5223

United States Senate
WASHINGTON, DC 20510-2003

January 7, 2010

Ms. Joyce K. Frank
Acting Assoc. Admin. for Cong. and Intergov'tl. Relations
Environmental Protection Agency
1200 Pennsylvania Ave., N. W.
Room 3426 ARN
Washington, D.C. 20460-0001

Dear Ms. Frank:

I am writing to request your consideration of the attached correspondence from Ms. [redacted] Please respond directly to Ms. [redacted] and send a copy to Deborah Moldover of my staff. If you have any questions, please call Ms. Moldover at (202) 224-4654.

Thank you for your assistance.

Sincerely,



Barbara A. Mikulski
United States Senator

BAM:dm
Enclosure

SUITE 400
1629 THAMES STREET
BALTIMORE, MD 21231
(410) 962-4510

SUITE 202
60 WEST STREET
ANNAPOLIS, MD 21401-2448
(410) 263-1805

SUITE 406
6404 IVY LANE
GREENBELT, MD 20770-1407
(301) 345-5517

ROOM 203
32 WEST WASHINGTON STREET
HAGERSTOWN, MD 21740-4804
(301) 797-2826

SUITE 200
212 MAIN STREET
SALISBURY, MD 21801-2403
(410) 546-7711

<http://mikulski.senate.gov/>

07/25/09

Dear Ms Watson,

We are writing in regard to Maryland Recycle, located at 5618 Furnace Ave., ElkrIDGE. We've spoken to your office on numerous occasions regarding this issue. I will give you a brief recap of our complaints.

Our issues:

Maryland Recycle stacks things in precarious towers that reach the top of the building that houses the business itself. These towers are surrounded by a falling down fence. [see enclosed photos] Over the years, we've made numerous police calls to report burglaries in process. One can enter the yard with ease, simply by pulling the fence down. It is disconcerting to say the least, to know that burglaries are taking place right next to our residences. What is to stop the thieves from just wandering a few feet away with our houses being their next targets? It is not unreasonable to expect Maryland Recycle to keep more secure premises. We've spoken to management and were told, they would be installing a more secure fence. That was a year ago. You can see by the photos, how far that project went.

Maryland Recycle clearly does as it pleases, with little regard for neighbors or regulations. We have all seen them dispose of things by burning. One day there was such a thick, black, roiling smoke that we thought the place was on fire. We confronted them about burning and they simply denied that it happened, in spite of just minutes before, the sky being filled with black smoke and the stink of burning rubber. We called the E.P.A. and were told to take photos of it the next time we saw it. Trying to gather proof of burning is not possible with a camera...none of us walk around with a camera on our hip, nor do we have the time to stand watch to catch them when they are burning illegally. Furthermore, it is not our job to regulate Maryland Recycle.

They also drain various liquids out of a hole under the fence and onto the street. We are told it is standing water from the yard. One question why proper drainage hasn't been installed, and why that liquid often has a shimmery chemical appearance. Our street should not be used for drainage.

We've spoken to Planning and Zoning, the Attorney General's office, Howard County Consumer Affairs, the E.P.A., and were even directed to OSHA, due to safety concerns for employees working around the enormous stacks, bails and bundles that are stored in the yard. No one has been able to answer our questions and we simply have been passed on to the next agency, who, in turn can't answer our questions and passes us on yet again. We understand that Maryland Recycle has a right to be where it is and operate its business in a reasonable fashion. However, we also have the right to live in a neighborhood that is not environmentally compromised, where a reasonable effort is

being made to prevent crime and we also have the right to not be faced with an enormous eyesore at the end of our street. Our property values are most certainly being affected and several houses in the area have had difficulty on the market specifically because of Maryland Recycle's trashy appearance. And frankly, we have the right to our public officials addressing our concerns and being able to answer our questions.

Our questions, again, are who regulates this business, why aren't they doing it, and specifically, what are the exact regulations on how high things can be stacked?
We look forward to hearing from you.

c.c.

Planning and Zoning

Attorney General's Office

Howard County Consumer Affairs

County Executive, Ken Ulman

E.P.A.

Governor Martin O'Malley

GECA/Dave Marc

Senators Mikulski/Cardin

OSHA

Watchdog/Baltimore Sun

Residents:

PLEASE SEE ENCLOSED LETTER TO COURTNEY WATSON .



